

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1273

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, TU, GR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON GREECE AND TURKEY; TURKISH
PROTEST

1. MFA CYPRUS-GREECE DIRGEN TULUMEN CALLED IN DCM DILLON
FEBRUARY 16 FOR A LOW-KEY PROTEST ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS
ON TURKEY AND GREECE. HE SAID HE WAS RE-ENFORCING AN
APPROACH WHICH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
MAKE TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. READING FROM NOTES, TULUMEN SAID THAT THE GOT REGARDED
THE REFERENCES TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE TURKISH MINORITY IN
GREECE A POSITIVE STEP BUT BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS NOT
A FAIR BALANCE BETWEEN THE REPORTS ON TURKEY AND GREECE
AS REGARDS DISCUSSION OF THE RESPECTIVE MINORITY PROBLEMS.
HE CITED THREE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES:

A) WHILE THE REPORT ON TURKEY MENTIONS "GREEK"
POPULATION IN TURKEY, THE REPORT ON GREECE DESCRIBES
THE TURKISH MINORITY THERE AS THE "MOSLEM" MINORITY.

B) THE REPORT ON TURKEY MENTIONS THAT MINORITY RIGHTS
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ARE GUARANTEED UNDER THE LAUSANNE TREATY. IN THE REPORT ON
GREECE, THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE FACT THAT THE TURKISH
MINORITY IN GREECE IS ALSO GUARANTEED BY THE SAME TREATY.

C. THE REPORT ON TURKEY REFLECTS A U.S. EVALUATION
OF THE STATUS OF THE MINORITIES, WHILE THE REPORT ON GREECE
CITES THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS OF THE SITUATION.

3. DILLON SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR FOR THE RECORD THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ARE REQUIRED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS AND ARE SUBMITTED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT-- NOT BY THE PRESIDENT, AS SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE SUGGESTED. THE STATE DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR SUBMITTED 109 SUCH REPORTS. THE PEOPLE WHO PREPARED THE REPORTS MADE AN HONEST EFFORT TO KEEP THE REPORTS AS ACCURATE AND AS BALANCED AS POSSIBLE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS NATURAL AND TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE REPORTS WILL STIMULATE SOME PROTEST.

4. COMMENT: TULUMEN SEEMED TO BE MAKING THIS PROTEST PRINCIPALLY FOR THE RECORD AND AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO GREEK PROTESTS, ABOUT WHICH THE TURKISH PRESS HAS CARRIED A NUMBER OF STORIES. IT IS STRIKING THAT HIS THIRD POINT (PARA 2 C) IS THE MIRROR IMAGE OF ONE OF THE GREEK PROTESTS (ATHENS 1281, PARA 3).
SPIERS

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